

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7341

To provide support and flexibility for the Federal workforce during the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2020

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GOMEZ, and Ms. SPEIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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# A BILL

To provide support and flexibility for the Federal workforce during the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-  
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Federal Workforce  
5 Health and Safety During the Pandemic Act”.

**1 SEC. 2. REIMBURSEMENT FOR CHILD AND FAMILY CARE**

**2 FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES DURING COVID-19**

**3 PANDEMIC.**

4       (a) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on  
5 the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December  
6 31, 2020, any employee who is unable to care for a de-  
7 pendent child of the employee or a relative of the employee  
8 who has COVID–19 as a result of the employee being re-  
9 quired to report to their duty station (either permanent  
10 or temporary) or to telework shall be entitled to reim-  
11 bursement for the costs of such care.

## 12 (b) APPLICATION.—

17                             (2) SUBMISSION OF RECEIPTS.—For purposes  
18                             of determining reimbursement amounts, each em-  
19                             ployee shall submit to their employing office receipts  
20                             or other documents as the office may require.

(3) LIMIT.—Reimbursement may not be paid to any employee under this section for any month in an amount greater than \$2,000 per child or relative.

**24**      (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

25 (1) the term "employee" means—

(B) an employee of the Government Accountability Office;

14 (F) any other individual occupying a posi-  
15 tion in the civil service (as that term is defined  
16 in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States  
17 Code); and

## 22 SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO TELEWORK.

23       (a) IN GENERAL.—Effective immediately upon the  
24 date of enactment of this Act, the head of any Federal  
25 agency shall require any employee of such agency who is

1 authorized to telework under chapter 65 of title 5, United  
2 States Code, or any other provision of law, to telework  
3 during the period beginning on the date of enactment of  
4 this Act and ending on December 31, 2020.

5 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 (1) the term “employee” has the meaning given

7 that term in section 2(c)(1); and

8 (2) the term “telework” has the meaning given

9 that term in section 6501(3) of title 5, United

10 States Code.

11 **SEC. 4. WEATHER AND SAFETY LEAVE FOR COVID-19.**

12 (a) WEATHER AND SAFETY LEAVE.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other  
14 provision of law, including subsection (b) of section  
15 6329c of title 5, United States Code, during the pe-  
16 riod beginning on the date of enactment of this Act  
17 and ending on December 31, 2020, any employee  
18 who is prevented from safely traveling to or per-  
19 forming work at an approved location as a result of  
20 the COVID-19 pandemic, or who is prevented from  
21 performing work in order to care for a child, relative  
22 of the employee, or other individual as a result of  
23 the COVID-19 pandemic, shall be provided weather  
24 and safety leave under such section.

(b) APPROVED LOCATION.—Section 6329c(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

11                   (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
12               (1);

13                   (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
14                 graph (2) and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16               “(3) the term ‘approved location’ means any lo-  
17               cation at which an employee has been approved to  
18               perform work, including any Federal office, a tele-  
19               working site, or other location as determined by the  
20               head of the agency at which the employee is em-  
21               ployed.”.

1   **SEC. 5. EFFECT OF DEPENDENT CARE ON TELEWORK ELI-**

2                   **GIBILITY.**

3       (a) TITLE 5 EMPLOYEES.—Section 6502(a) of title  
4 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following new paragraph:

6                   “(3) DEPENDENT CARE.—

7                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The presence of a de-  
8  pendent individual at the location from which  
9  an employee teleworks shall have no effect on  
10 the eligibility of such employee to telework if  
11 such dependent individual is cared for by a  
12 caregiver other than such employee while such  
13 employee is teleworking.

14                   “(B) TEMPORARY UNAVAILABILITY OF  
15 CAREGIVER.—The temporary unavailability of a  
16 caregiver described in subparagraph (A) does  
17 not affect the eligibility of the relevant em-  
18 ployee to telework if—

19                   “(i) such unavailability is due to un-  
20  usual or extraordinary circumstances; and  
21                   “(ii) an alternative caregiver is not  
22  reasonably available.

23                   “(C) DEPENDENT INDIVIDUAL DE-  
24 FINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘depend-  
25 ent individual’ means a dependent child or rel-  
26 ative (as such terms are defined in paragraphs

(b) OTHER APPLICABLE EMPLOYEES.—With respect to any employee not covered under chapter 65 of title 5, United States Code, the terms and conditions with respect to dependent care and teleworking under section 6502(a)(3) of such title (as added by subsection (a)) shall apply. In this subsection, the term “employee” has the meaning given that term under section 2(c)(1), but does not include an employee as defined in section 6501(1) of such title.

14 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
15 tion shall alter or otherwise affect the rights, remedies,  
16 and procedures related to dependent care under the terms  
17 of any collective bargaining agreement.

18 SEC. 6. PRESUMPTION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR WORKERS'  
19 COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR FEDERAL  
20 EMPLOYEES DIAGNOSED WITH  
21 CORONAVIRUS.

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—An employee who is diagnosed  
23 with COVID–19 during the period described in subsection  
24 (b)(2)(A) shall, with respect to any claim made by or on  
25 behalf of the employee for benefits under subchapter I of

1 chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, be deemed to  
2 have an injury proximately caused by exposure to  
3 coronavirus arising out of the nature of the employee's em-  
4 ployment and be presumptively entitled to such benefits,  
5 including disability compensation, medical services, and  
6 survivor benefits.

7 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

8           (1) the term “coronavirus” means SARS-CoV-  
9           2 or another coronavirus with pandemic potential;  
10          and

11           (2) the term “employee”—

12               (A) means an employee as that term is de-  
13               fined in section 8101(1) of title 5, United  
14               States Code, (including an employee of the  
15               United States Postal Service, the Transpor-  
16               tation Security Administration, or the Depart-  
17               ment of Veterans Affairs, including any indi-  
18               vidual appointed under chapter 73 or 74 of title  
19               38, United States Code) employed in the Fed-  
20               eral service at anytime during the period begin-  
21               ning on January 27, 2020, and ending on Jan-  
22               uary 30, 2022—

23               (i) who carried out duties requiring  
24               contact with patients, members of the pub-  
25               lic, or co-workers; or

## **7 SEC. 7. PANDEMIC DUTY DIFFERENTIAL.**

8       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

9 (1) the term "agency"—

10 (A) means—

(I) an Executive agency, as that term is defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(II) a military department, as  
that term is defined in section 102 of  
title 5, United States Code;

(V) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

3 (VI) the United States Postal  
4 Service and the Postal Regulatory  
5 Commission; and

6 (VII) the Government Account-  
7 ability Office;

(II) an Indian tribe or tribal organization that receives a grant under the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.); and

1                         (B) does not include a nonappropriated  
2                         fund instrumentality under the jurisdiction of  
3                         the Armed Forces;

4                         (2) the term “covered duty”—

5                         (A) means duty that requires—

6                                 (i) an employee to have regular or  
7                                 routine contact with the public; or

8                                 (ii) the reporting of an employee to a  
9                                 worksite at which—

10   (I) social distancing is not pos-  
11                                 sible, consistent with the regularly as-  
12                                 signed duties of the position of the  
13                                 employee; and

14   (II) other preventative measures  
15                                 with respect to COVID–19 are not  
16                                 available; and

17                         (B) does not include duty that an employee  
18                         performs while teleworking from a residence;

19                         (3) the term “covered period” means the period  
20                         beginning on the date on which the Secretary of  
21                         Health and Human Services declared a public health  
22                         emergency under section 319 of the Public Health  
23                         Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect to  
24                         COVID–19 and ending on the date that is 60 days

1       after the date on which that public health emergency  
2       terminates;

3                 (4) the term “employee”—

4                         (A) means an employee of an agency;

5                         (B) includes—

6                                 (i) any employee of an agency who oc-  
7       cupies a position within the General Sched-  
8       ule under subchapter III of chapter 53 of  
9       title 5, United States Code;

10                                 (ii) any employee of an agency whose  
11       pay is fixed and adjusted from time to  
12       time in accordance with prevailing rates  
13       under subchapter IV of chapter 53 of title  
14       5, United States Code, or by a wage board  
15       or similar administrative authority serving  
16       the same purpose;

17                                 (iii) an official or employee of an In-  
18       dian tribe, tribal organization, or urban In-  
19       dian organization described in paragraph  
20       (1)(A)(iii);

21                                 (iv) each employee of the Department  
22       of Veterans Affairs, including an employee  
23       appointed under chapter 74 of title 38,  
24       United States Code, without regard to  
25       whether section 7421(a) of that title, sec-

4 (v) any other individual occupying a  
5 position in the civil service, as that term is  
6 defined in section 2101 of title 5, United  
7 States Code; and

8 (C) does not include—

(iv) an individual serving in a position  
of a confidential or policy-determining  
character under Schedule C of subpart C

1                   of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal  
2                   Regulations, or any successor regulations;

3                   (v) a member of the Senate or House  
4                   of Representatives, a Delegate to the  
5                   House of Representatives, or the Resident  
6                   Commissioner from Puerto Rico; or

7                   (vi) an employee of the personal office  
8                   of an individual described in clause (v), of  
9                   a leadership office of the Senate or the  
10                  House of Representatives, of a committee  
11                  of the Senate or the House of Representa-  
12                  tives, or of a joint committee of Congress;  
13                  and

14                  (5) the term “employer payroll taxes” means—  
15                   (A) taxes imposed under sections 3111(b),  
16                   3221(a) (but only to the extent attributable to  
17                   the portion of such tax attributable to the tax  
18                   imposed by section 3111(b)), 3221(b), and  
19                   3301 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;  
20                  and

21                   (B) taxes imposed by a State or local gov-  
22                   ernment on an employer with respect to  
23                   amounts paid by such employer for work by em-  
24                   ployees.

25                  (b) PANDEMIC DUTY DIFFERENTIAL.—

1                     (1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a sched-  
2       ule of pay differentials for covered duty as follows:

3                     (A) An employee is entitled to pay for that  
4       covered duty at the rate of basic pay, which in-  
5       cludes any differential or other premium pay  
6       paid for regularly scheduled work of the em-  
7       ployee other than the differential established  
8       under this section, of the employee plus pre-  
9       mium pay of \$13 per hour.

10                    (B) The total amount of premium pay paid  
11      to an employee under subparagraph (A) shall  
12      be—

13                    (i) with respect to an employee whose  
14      annual rate of basic pay is less than  
15      \$200,000, not more than \$10,000 reduced  
16      by employer payroll taxes with respect to  
17      such premium pay; and

18                    (ii) with respect to an employee whose  
19      annual rate of basic pay is not less than  
20      \$200,000, not more than \$5,000 reduced  
21      by employer payroll taxes with respect to  
22      such premium pay.

23                    (2) PAY.—

24                    (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the  
25      covered period, an employee is entitled to be

1           paid the applicable differential established  
2           under paragraph (1) for any period, including  
3           any period during the covered period that pre-  
4           cedes the date of enactment of this Act, in  
5           which the employee is carrying out covered  
6           duty, subject to the applicable limitations under  
7           that paragraph.

8           (B) RETROACTIVE PAYMENT.—With re-  
9           spect to a payment earned by an employee  
10          under this subsection for a period during the  
11          covered period that precedes the date of enact-  
12          ment of this Act, the employee shall be paid  
13          that payment in a lump sum payment as soon  
14          as is practicable after that date of enactment.

15          (3) GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—

16           (A) EXECUTIVE BRANCH.—

17           (i) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Per-  
18           sonnel Management shall develop criteria  
19           for agencies in the executive branch of the  
20           Federal Government regarding the means  
21           by which to determine the eligibility of an  
22           employee in such an agency for the pay  
23           differential established under this sub-  
24           section, which shall—

25           (I) be based on—

18 (B) OTHER BRANCHES, CERTAIN DC EM-  
19 PLOYEES, AND CERTAIN TRIBAL OFFICIALS.—

24 (I) shall develop criteria regard-  
25 ing the means by which to determine

(ii) CONSISTENCY WITH OPM GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—Any criteria developed, and regulations prescribed, by an agency under clause (i) shall, to the extent practicable, be comparable to any criteria developed and regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management under subparagraph (A).

**16 (c) LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY.—**

1 gate of basic pay and such premium pay for service  
2 performed in that calendar year by that employee to  
3 exceed the annual rate of basic pay payable for level  
4 II of the Executive Schedule, as of the end of the  
5 calendar year.

6 (2) APPLICABILITY OF AGGREGATE LIMITATION  
7 ON PAY.—In determining whether a payment to an  
8 employee is subject to the limitation under section  
9 5307(a) of title 5, United States Code, a payment  
10 described in paragraph (1) shall not apply.

11 (3) APPLICABILITY OF CARES ACT.—The au-  
12 thority provided under this subsection shall be con-  
13 sidered to be in addition to, and not a replacement  
14 for, the authority provided under section 18110 of  
15 title VIII of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

16 (4) RETROACTIVE EFFECT.—This subsection  
17 shall take effect as if enacted on the date on which  
18 the covered period began.

19 (d) APPROPRIATION.—

20 (1) APPROPRIATION.—There is hereby appro-  
21 priated, out of any money in the Treasury not other-  
22 wise appropriated, \$10,000,000,000, to remain  
23 available until expended, for the offices and agencies  
24 described in paragraph (2) to carry out subsections

1       (b) and (c) and to make transfers authorized under  
2       paragraph (3) of this subsection.

3                 (2) OFFICES AND AGENCIES.—The offices and  
4       agencies described in this paragraph are—

5                         (A) the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and  
6       Doorkeeper of the Senate;

7                         (B) the Office of the Clerk of the House  
8       of Representatives;

9                         (C) the Office of the Sergeant at Arms of  
10      the House of Representatives;

11                         (D) the Office of the Chief Administrative  
12      Officer of the House of Representatives;

13                         (E) the Office of the Attending Physician;

14                         (F) the Capitol Police;

15                         (G) the Office of the Architect of the Cap-  
16      itol;

17                         (H) the Library of Congress;

18                         (I) the Government Publishing Office;

19                         (J) the Government Accountability Office;

20                         (K) the Office of Personnel Management;

21                         (L) the Administrative Office of the United  
22      States Courts;

23                         (M) the District of Columbia Courts; and

24                         (N) the District of Columbia Public De-  
25      fender Service.

## 1                   (3) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

2                   (A) OPM.—The Office of Personnel Management may transfer funds made available under this subsection to other Federal agencies within the executive branch to reimburse such agencies for costs incurred to implement this section.

8                   (B) AOUSC.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts may transfer funds made available under this subsection to other entities within the judicial branch to reimburse the entities for costs incurred to implement this section.

## 14                  (e) COORDINATION WITH OTHER BENEFITS.—

15                  (1) DISREGARD FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Any payment provided under this section shall not be regarded as income and shall not be regarded as a resource for the month of receipt and the following 12 months, for purposes of determining the eligibility of the recipient (or the recipient's spouse or family) for benefits or assistance, or the amount or extent of benefits or assistance, under any Federal program or under any State or local program financed in whole or in part with Federal funds.

18 (C) REPORTING.—

1                   Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) with  
2                   respect to nonemployee compensation the  
3                   aggregate amount of each type of applica-  
4                   ble payments so made.

5                   (ii) APPLICABLE PAYMENTS.—For  
6                   purposes of this subparagraph, the term  
7                   “applicable payments” means amounts  
8                   paid by reason of subsection (b).

9                   (3) EMPLOYMENT TAX TREATMENT FOR  
10                  AMOUNTS PAID THROUGH GRANTS.—

11                  (A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section  
12                  3111(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,  
13                  any amounts required to be paid by reason of  
14                  this section shall not be considered wages.

15                  (B) RAILROAD RETIREMENT TAXES.—For  
16                  purposes of section 3221(a) of the Internal  
17                  Revenue Code of 1986, the amount of tax im-  
18                  posed under such section for any calendar year  
19                  in which an employer is required to pay  
20                  amounts under this section shall be equal to the  
21                  sum of—

22                  (i) the product of the rate in effect  
23                  under section 3111(a) of such Code and  
24                  the compensation (reduced by any amounts  
25                  required to be paid by reason of this sec-

9 (C) SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

(D) TRANSFERS TO TRUST FUNDS.—There are hereby appropriated to the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund established under section 201 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) and the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account established under section 15A(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n-1(a)) amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of this paragraph (without regard to this subparagraph). Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund or Account had this subsection not been enacted.

19 (f) CLARIFICATION OF COORDINATION WITH OTHER  
20 LAWS.—

1       the rights or benefits that an essential worker is en-  
2       titled to under any—

- 3               (A) Federal, State, or local law, including  
4               regulation;  
5               (B) collective bargaining agreement; or  
6               (C) employer policy.

7               (2) TITLE 5.—Nothing in this section shall be  
8       construed to affect the application of the provisions  
9       of sections 5343 or 5545 of title 5, United States  
10      Code, with respect to pay differentials for duty in-  
11      volving unusual physical hardship or hazard, or envi-  
12      ronmental differentials.

13       (g) APPLICABILITY OF FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT  
14      OF 1938 TO SOVEREIGN TRIBAL EMPLOYERS.—

15               (1) IN GENERAL.—The receipt of any funds  
16       under subsection (b), (c), or (d) by a sovereign Tribal  
17       employer shall not expand, constrict, or alter the  
18       application of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938  
19       (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) to such sovereign Tribal em-  
20       ployer.

21               (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

22               (A) the term “Tribal employer” means—  
23                       (i) any Tribal government, a subdivi-  
24                       sion of a Tribal government (determined in  
25                       accordance with section 7871(d) of the In-

1                   internal Revenue Code), or an agency or in-  
2                   strumentality of a Tribal government or  
3                   subdivision thereof;

4                   (ii) any Tribal organization (as the  
5                   term “tribal organization” is defined in  
6                   section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determina-  
7                   tion and Education Assistance Act (25  
8                   U.S.C. 5304(l));

9                   (iii) any corporation if more than 50  
10                  percent (determined by vote and value) of  
11                  the outstanding stock of such corporation  
12                  is owned, directly or indirectly, by any en-  
13                  tity described in subparagraph (A) or (B);  
14                  or

15                  (iv) any partnership if more than 50  
16                  percent of the value of the capital and  
17                  profits interests of such partnership is  
18                  owned, directly or indirectly, by any entity  
19                  described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and  
20                  (B) the term “Trival government” means

21                  the recognized governing body of any Indian or  
22                  Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, vil-  
23                  lage, community, component band, or compo-  
24                  nent reservation individually identified (includ-  
25                  ing parenthetically) in the list published most

1 recently as of the date of enactment of this Act  
2 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recog-  
3 nized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C.  
4 5131).

○